



Dear Members,

The DPH has issued a [memorandum](#) to long term care facilities to make them aware of the presence of Legionnaires' disease and the actions to take when it is identified in a resident. While the guidance is directed toward long term care facilities, the information contained therein is helpful to all those charged with the care of individuals who are at increased risk, which is a category that includes residents of assisted living communities. Some of the features of this update from the DPH are as follows:

- Research has shown that roughly ten percent of those who contract Legionnaires' disease will die due to complications from their illness.
- Legionnaires' disease is a respiratory infection that is especially serious in those individuals who fall into the categories below:
 - Aged 50 or older
 - Current or former smokers
 - People with chronic lung disease
 - Individuals with weakened immune systems or who take medications that are associated with causing a weakened immune system
 - People with such chronic illnesses as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure

The memorandum from the DPH can be accessed [here](#).



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